



No. 37

February 16, 1991

COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE ADOPTS PROGRAMMED MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO SANCTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today chaired a special session of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa (CFMSA) in London (UK) and made public the Committee's conclusions (annexed).

The Committee was unanimous in welcoming recent substantial progress in South Africa, and in adopting a programmed management approach to sanctions, relating any change in their application not to statements of intention but to real and practical steps in the dismantling of apartheid. The Committee agreed to hold a review of the sanctions situation after April 30 in New Delhi, assuming the following conditions are met in South Africa:

- remaining political prisoners are released;
- way cleared for exiles to return home;
- repressive provisions of security legislation are repealed; and
- Group Areas, Population Registration and Land Acts are repealed.

The Committee resolved that trade, investment and financial sanctions should be maintained until there is evidence of progress on constitutional reform in multi-party negotiations, such as the establishment of an interim government, a constituent assembly or some other agreed constitution-making process. It was also decided that the existing arms embargo should remain in force until a new constitution is in place.